

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W
----- 043227 /55

R 171142Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0119

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 18207

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: CHIEF MINISTER OF ORISSA RESIGNS, PRESIDENT'S RULE
PROCLAIMED; CONTEST CONTINUES IN WEST BENGAL

FOL SENT ACTION NEW DELHI, INFO BOMBAY,MADRAS DTD DEC 17, 1976
FROM CALCUTTA SIGNED LIEBOWITZ

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CALCUTTA 3134

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJ: CHIEF MINISTER OF ORISSA RESIGNS, PRESIDENT'S RULE
PROCLAIMED; CONTEST CONTINUES IN WEST BENGAL

REF: CALCUTTA 3111

1. AS HAS BEEN EXPECTED FOR SOME TIME, MRS. NANDINI SATPATHY,
CHIEF MINISTER OF ORISSA, FINALLY YIELDED TO PRESSURE FROM
MRS. GANDHI AND RESIGNED FROM HER POSITION AT 6:25 PM ON
DECEMBER 16. HER RESIGNATION WAS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY
THE PROCLAMATION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE IN THE STATE. M.
RAMAKRISHNAYYA, SECRETARY IN THE UNION MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
AND TRANSPORT AND FORMER CHIEF SECRETARY OF ORISSA, HAS
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BEEN NAMED ADVISER TO THE GOVERNOR. ALONG WITH PRESIDENT'S
RULE AN ORDER UNDER SECTION 144 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE
CODE BANNING MEETINGS OF MORE THAN FIVE PERSONS WAS PRO-
CLAIMED IN BHUBANESWAR.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS A SEARCH FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT

IN ORISSA HAS ALREADY STARTED. BINAYAK ACHARYA, WHO HAD RECENTLY BEEN STRIPPED OF HIS PORTFOLIO AS MINISTER OF FINANCE IN THE ORISSA CABINET BY MRS. SATPATHY, IS REPORT-EDLY A LEADING CHOICE TO REPLACE HER. SPECULATION IS THAT A NEW GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE FORMED WITHIN FOUR TO SIX WEEKS.

3. CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION IN ORISSA HAS ENCOURAGED THOSE FAVORING OUSTER OF CHIEF MINISTER IN WEST BENGAL. A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI, WEST BENGAL POWER AND IRRIGATION MINISTER AND LEADER OF ANTI-RAY FORCES, IS QUOTED IN STATESMAN AS SAYING, "THE RESIGNATION OF MRS. NANDINI SATPATHY HAS NOT ONLY SHOWN THA OUR STAND IS CORRECT, BUT IT HAS ALSO PROVED THAT A CONTROVERSIAL CHIEF MINISTER IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE." THERE ARE RUMORS IN ANTI-RAY CIRCLES THAT CHANGE IN WEST BENGAL COULD COME IN NEXT DAY OR TWO. ONE VERSION HAS IT THAT P.R. DAS MUNSHI, A LEADER OF THE PRO-RAY FORCES, WHO MET WITH UNION MINISTERS D.P. CHATTOPADHYAYA AND P.K. MUKHERJEE, CONGRESS PRESIDENT BAROOAH AND MRS. GANDHI IN DELHI ON DEC. 16, HAS RETURNED TO CALCUTTA CARRY-ING THE MESSAGE TO RAY TO RESIGN.

4. ON AFTERNOON OF THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16 OPPONENTS OF RAY HELD LARGE PUBLIC MEETING AT PARK IN NORTH CALCUTTA, WHERE STATE MINISTERS, A GENERAL SECRETARY OF WEST BENGAL CONGRESS COMMITTEE, AND SEVERAL MLA'S DENOUNCED THE CHIEF MINISTER FOR FAILURES OF HIS ADMINISTRATION. ACCORDING TO STATESMAN, TWO OF HIS LEADING SUPPORTERS, P.R. DAS MUNSHI AND L.K. BOSE, WERE ALSO DENOUNCED FOR FORMING AN "OPPORTUNISTIC ALLIANCE" WHICH "WOULD ONLY HELP TO DISRUPT THE PARTY AND FURTHER THE CAUSE OF THE CPI."

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LIEBOWITZ UNQTE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE18207
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760464-0874
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761233/aaaabcgh.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CALCUTTA 3111
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHIEF MINISTER OF ORISSA RESIGNS, PRESIDENT'S RULE PROCLAIMED; CONTEST CONTINUES IN WEST BENGAL FOL SENT ACTION NEW DELHI, INFO BOMBAY,MADRAS DTD
TAGS: PINT, IN, (SATPATHY, NANDINI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006